

Chicken Scratch



Regulatory Services

Egg & Poultry

Eggsclusively for Utah Egg & Poultry Personnel

Plant Security

It used to be that most communities in Utah had a poultry farm or two. Those farms produced eggs for the local residents. Currently, Utah Egg and Poultry producers not only produce eggs for local residents, but also for neighboring states and in some cases other countries. Utah producers not only have to compete on a local level, but on an international level as well. Competing in these many markets can and does bring with it many challenges. A relatively new challenge for Utah's egg and poultry industry is addressing the threat of terrorism, both on a local and international

level. Robert Mueller, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) said, "Agroterrorism is an issue that is just starting to enter our collective consciousness. Most people do not equate terrorist attacks on people, planes, and buildings with attacks on plants and animals. But the threat is real, and the impact could be devastating." We sometimes have the attitude that it won't happen here in Utah, but it can and does. The threat to local egg producers may not be on that of an International level, but on the local level it could be a disgruntled employee, etc. We as graders in these

plants, need to be aware of the things around us and the things that don't fit or belong. If we see things that seems out of place, we need to notify plant management. We may also want to encourage plants to take security measures that could improve food security, personal safety and bio-security. If the plant has security procedures in place, we need to always follow those procedures.

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A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty.

Sir Winston Churchill

Moving to Electronic Time Sheets

In the year 2000 the Egg and Poultry section began using computers. The dream was that some day reports as well as timesheets could be sent to the office electronically. One of those dreams has finally come to pass. In the next few months, the Egg and Poultry staff will be trained on how to fill out your time sheets online. This new way of submitting your time will be less time consuming for the people in the office, and will allow you to submit your time sheets in a timely manner. This new system only requires that you have internet access—no special software is needed. Mileage reimbursement for private vehicle use will still need to be sent in just as it is now. You will also receive training on submitting in state travel reimbursements. In the past, this has been very labor intensive, it has required that the form be filled out in the office and mailed to you and then signed and mailed back to the office. With the ability to fill the form out online, you can print it out and submit it to the office—saving time in getting your reimbursement. We are very excited about the upcoming changes.



Friendly Reminders

BIOSECURITY

Egg Inspectors and Egg Graders that frequently visit different processing plants should not transport clipboards, pencils and forms from one plant to the other. Scales and other equipment that must be transported from plant to plant should be wiped down with sanitary cloths between plants and transported in clean disinfectable containers. If for some reason you need to visit the production side of the farm and the processing area in the same visit, you should

visit the production side of the farm first and then visit the processing side. This reduces the risk of transporting pathogens to the chicken flocks. We should always follow plant requirements for Biosecurity.

